

# NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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## Greetings to: Local Presidents from SAN FRANCISCO



**T**HIS letter comes to you from the Pacific Coast, where the most important meeting likely to be held for many generations is now taking place. You will be thrilled to know that our organization was one of the forty-two organizations invited by the U.S. State Department to send consultants to serve with the United States delegation.

- These organizations represent the various major interests of our country—labor, industry, religion, patriotic services, women's interests, and education. The National Congress of Parents and Teachers was one of the three educational organizations chosen—the other two being the American Council on Education and the National Education Association. Here at San Francisco the representative of the American Association of University Women is working closely with us, since that group, too, is chiefly interested in education.

- Each consultant has been given the opportunity to appoint two associates, both of whom are accorded many privileges and one of whom may act as consultant when needed. Our two associate consultants are Mrs. J. W. Bingham, chairman of our postwar planning committee, and Mrs. J. J. Garland, president of the California Congress of Parents and Teachers. It was necessary that the associates live in the San Francisco area, for hotel space in this city is at a premium.

- I hope you are reading the newspaper accounts of the Conference—about its setting, about its famous personalities, and, above all, about the deliberations that are taking place here. As you read, will you remember that your parent-teacher representatives have seats on the main floor of the Opera House just back of the official delegations and that we are present at all plenary sessions. Between sessions there is plenty of work to be done and little time for play.

- We who are consultants are pioneers under a new policy of the Department of State. It is the belief of the Department that responsible national organizations having definite policies on matters of international interest should have an opportunity to be heard, and also that they should serve as a liaison between the Department of State and the citizens of this country included in their membership. If this experiment is successful, the same policy will undoubtedly be followed in later conferences. We, this first group of consultants, feel our responsibility to make good.

### Three Important Points

It is impossible to tell you the details of the Conference in a brief letter, but may I stress three points:

- *First*, this is *not* a peace conference but a *United Nations Conference on International Organization*. It has nothing to do with formulation of peace terms for conquered nations, with boundaries, or with any other matters that must be decided when the fighting ceases. The whole purpose of this meeting in San Francisco is to create some machinery by means of which the nations of the world may be spared the horrors of war. To make this machinery operate effectively, we must have supplemental agreements relating to economic mat-

ters, food, trade among nations, and so on. The Dumbarton Oaks Proposals are to be submitted to the delegates for acceptance, amendment, or even rejection. The unanimity with which all nations, through their leaders, insist that the Conference must be successful is most encouraging.

- The *second* point I wish to stress is that it seems quite simple and natural to be sitting in an audience composed of so many different races and nationalities. The delegates do not look very different from any American audience, for we ourselves are a country composed of all races, all nationalities. It seems natural to have Great Britain's Anthony Eden as presiding officer and Russia's Mr. Molotov and China's Dr. T. V. Soong leading the discussions. Of course, we hear many languages, and a few delegates dress somewhat differently from our own manner of dressing, but those things, too, seem normal in this country of ours. I hope this impression augurs well for the future.

- My *third* point is this: What is being done here at San Francisco is just a beginning; no document can accomplish anything by itself. We are starting to build a world structure that will grow as our cathedrals have grown. First of all, we build a strong foundation to carry the weight of the great edifice, and then year by year and generation by generation, sections are added. Continuing interest, faith, enthusiasm, and understanding will be needed.

- I wish it were possible to tell you in detail about the sessions—the many interesting incidents that happen and the fine people who have come so far to take part in this Conference. I hope you feel that you yourselves are here because your representatives are here. It is an honor for all of us to have been so chosen by the Department of State; it is because of *your* interest and *your* fine work toward international understanding that we have been given this honor.

### What You Can Do

If you personally want to do something, write the American delegates. Tell them we believe that human rights

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must be considered as well as political and economic matters. Tell them that our own program—recommending the development of an international agency to further education as a factor in producing a peaceful world and also an agency to care for the needs of children who have suffered so seriously from the war—is a program of enlightened self-interest. We want *all* the children of today to be prepared to work together later on in advancing the work now being started at this San Francisco Conference. When the document accepted by this Conference comes before our Senate for ratification, we must let our own senators know that we want them to vote favorably and promptly.

• Your president will remain here until she must return for the meeting of the Executive Committee, which will transact the business ordinarily taken up at our annual Convention and our spring Board meeting—both of which have had to be canceled because of ODT rulings. After I leave, the associate consultants will continue to give their services, to report to us, and to act for us.

*Ginnetta A. Hastings*

Consultant to U.S. Delegation, UNCIO  
President, National Congress  
of Parents and Teachers

## ANNOUNCING A SPECIAL RADIO BROADCAST

Date—May 21, 1945

Time—3:30 to 3:45 p.m., EWT

Over—Mutual Stations

Topic: *After the War, What About the Volunteer?*

Sponsored by the American Women's Voluntary Services, Inc.

Participants:

- Mrs. Chester W. Nimitz, wife of the Fleet Admiral, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean areas
- Mrs. George S. Patton, Jr., whose husband is the General of the American Third Army.
- Mrs. Charles Lee Gilbert, president of the American Legion Auxiliary
- Mrs. William A. Hastings, president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers

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# NEW P.T.A. Study Programs

1. *The Precious Preschool Years*
2. *The Family Builds the Future*

**A**TENTION, P.T.A. study groups! Attention, chairmen of parent education, health, mental hygiene, home and family life, preschool service, and program committees! The *National Parent-Teacher*, our official Magazine, announces two new study courses for the year 1945-46: "The Precious Preschool Years," dealing with toddlers up to the age of six, and "The Family Builds the Future," covering the problems of youngsters of school age and the family as a whole. Plan now to make good use of the material in these two courses, not only in preschool sections and study groups but in your monthly programs throughout the year.

Each course consists of a series of articles appearing from September through April in the *National Parent-Teacher*. Every article is written by a recognized authority in a particular field of child development. However, all of them are addressed frankly to the general reader in language carefully shorn of technical or obscure terms. In this way sound, important, and usable information is made accessible to all who have need of it.

In addition, each article is accompanied by an outline prepared by the director of the study course, summing up significant points, suggesting questions for group discussion, and including a list of reading references.

## MONTHLY TOPICS

### The Precious Preschool Years

1. *Lots Can Happen Before Two*
2. *Two; Three; Look at Me!*
3. *Christmas Is Coming!*
4. *Shall My Child Go to Nursery School?*
5. *Four; Five; How I Thrive!*
6. *Juniors and Seniors—in Kindergarten*
7. *Readiness for First Grade*
8. *A New Baby Comes to Our House*

### The Family Builds the Future

1. *Parents and Teachers as Partners*
  - a. *What the teacher expects of the home*
  - b. *What the parent expects of the school*
2. *When and How To Say "No"*
3. *What Can We Substitute for War?*
4. *Religion and Our Children*
5. *Managing Your Moods*
6. *Let's Get Rid of Prejudice*
7. *Will There Be a Sex Problem?*
8. *Welcome Home, Father!*

## MAKE IT A COOPERATIVE PROJECT

**P**ARENT education, health, mental hygiene, home and family life, and preschool service chairmen are now developing their programs for the coming school year. Urge them to concentrate on the two Magazine study courses, to build a cooperative program on the well-founded, all-inclusive material these courses contain. In this way all the adult education activities of your P.T.A. may be correlated and linked together by a common approach and a common background of knowledge.

Above all, impress upon your program chairman the wisdom of utilizing the subject matter of these courses in the regular monthly meetings. Each article will suggest a wealth of program possibilities. For, as Mrs. Charles D. Center, National Programs chairman, reminds us, "If we all get behind these two courses and promote their use we shall be able to save local workers many hours of time, worry, and work. The topics selected are important—even urgent—and we do want as many as possible of our local associations to study and discuss them."

## Do You Like To Sew?

P.T.A. sewing groups interested in helping to make needed clothing for our Russian allies may procure a set of instructional leaflets from Russian War Relief, Inc. This collection of patterns is especially valuable for its hints on how to use every available scrap of material in these days of scarcity.

If you want further information, get in touch with your local Russian War Relief Committee.

## "I Am An American Day"

Sunday, May 20, 1945, has been proclaimed "I Am An American Day."

Local units should make every effort to commemorate this special day which is so symbolic of the essence of true American spirit. The event provides a splendid opportunity for all of us, native or foreign-born, to consider gratefully both the privileges of democracy and our responsibilities for making it work.

## DIAL IN ON THE BAXTERS

Saturdays—1:30 p.m., E.W.T.—  
over NBC Network



# OUR *Membership* IS NOW 3,487,138

■ ■ ■ — A GAIN OF 432,188 FOR THE YEAR — ■ ■ ■

WE worked for it; we planned for it; we hoped for it. And now, it seems, we've done it—repeated last year's gain of nearly half a million. The year 1944-45 has brought us 432,188 new members!

Since 1943 our P.T.A. membership has increased by almost 875,000. We can say with just pride, therefore, that the past two years have seen as significant advances in the growth of our organization as they have seen in our country's progress toward victory and peace.

Each and every one of us may well feel a thrill of personal joy at this realization. Obstructions to civilian activities have bulked large during these war years. The curtailment of transportation facilities, the limitations placed on the free time of every man and woman in America, shortages of all kinds of labor and of many goods and services—all these *could* have constituted no small impediment to our parent-teacher work. Yet we have surmounted every obstacle triumphantly.

Along with our gain in membership has gone a comparable gain in every field of parent-teacher accomplishment. America's parents and America's teachers—men and women alike—have fearlessly faced the challenge of the times.

## Interpreting the Figures

What does all this heightened effort, this steady growth, mean? It means first of all that we are a sound organization—not only in the sense of being well knit and solidly united but in the sense of being sound in purpose and in method. The things we work for, the half-century-old Objects of the National Congress, are great and good things. The ways in which we work to attain them are practical and effective ways. The old saying, "Be sure you're right; then go ahead," could nowhere be better applied than to the work and aims of the P.T.A.

## Strength and Power

A membership of nearly three and a half million means, moreover, that we are truly a force in America—a tremendous reservoir of potential power to influence national thought. Only as we convert this quickening energy into dynamic action can our vast organization reach full effectiveness.

This, then, must be our goal: to see that our membership figures do not remain mere statistics but become translated into genuine accomplishment. What we believe can be what all America believes; our aspirations for the welfare of children can be those of all America.

Our continued growth, however, is much more than an indication of our soundness and our power; it means further that we have an increased responsibility to use our strength and competence wisely. And this responsibility belongs to every man and woman in every P.T.A. in America—from the smallest, most isolated rural unit to the largest urban association.

## "A Mighty Army"

It is a stern fact that today as never before we cannot afford to make mistakes or to falter in our persistent efforts. Too much is at stake in these historic times. In a day, week, the whole face of the world may be changed. We must be ready for this change, for all changes. We must anticipate them in our planning. As a vast army of men and women fighting for the welfare of the children of the world we must be prepared to deploy our forces wherever they are most needed.

Does all this sound a bit overwhelming? It need not be, for we have had nearly fifty years' experience in working steadfastly for the welfare of our children. We have learned much in those fifty years. We are no longer pioneers, groping in unexplored territory, achieving our ends by trial and error. Our

goals for the welfare of children are clear-cut. We know what course we must follow.

It lies within the power of every local unit to take, here and now, the steps necessary to attain these goals in its own community and at the same time to take united action on the issues that will extend the influence of our organization into every corner of the world.

Here again our program is well defined. It is embodied in the recommendations of the postwar planning committee presented at the Board meeting last November:

*"1. The creation of an appropriate international organization, of which the United States shall be a member, with power to enforce a just and lasting peace.*

*"2. The establishment of an international organization for education, to provide for educational reconstruction and to promote cultural understanding among all nations.*

*"3. The development of an international program for the care and protection of children and youth throughout the world."*

All children are our children; their lives are in our hands; and on them rest our hopes for a better world. To make it possible for them to build this world we must think and act as one body, "one equal temper of heroic hearts," as Tennyson wrote, "... strong in will to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."



ON May 14 the Treasury Department will launch its Seventh War Loan drive. The official insignia for all war bond publicity is to be the famous photograph of United States Marines raising the flag over Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima.

This photograph is an inspiring symbol of American fighting spirit. Let's all remember that when we buy bonds, we may be unfurling Old Glory over many another oppressed area in a world at war.



# RECIPROCAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

WITH the San Francisco Conference now in session, every American is thinking about the vital importance of establishing desirable international relations. But not all of us, perhaps, realize that the problem of world security has many aspects. It means not only preventing aggression by the use of force. It means also establishing a basis of trade so sound that economic aggression may be eliminated as a cause of war. In the words of the late President Roosevelt, "We cannot succeed in building a peaceful world unless we build an economically healthy world."

The parent-teacher organization is intimately concerned with what the future holds for all children and youth. Therefore, every parent-teacher member will be interested in knowing that Congress is now considering a measure which has a direct bearing on international relations. This important piece of legislation deals with the renewal and expansion of the Trade Agreements Act, which expires on June 12 of this year.

## Present Provisions

In 1934, Congress passed an act that enabled us to reduce tariff barriers on the goods of any country willing to do the same for us. Since then, under three renewals of the act, we have made trade agreements with twenty-eight nations.

*Experience has shown that if we want peace among nations we cannot have economic and trade warfare among nations. Unless we are willing to do away with unnecessary barriers to our trade with them, we are likely to lose the friendship of other countries.*

Under the Trade Agreements Act, which expires this summer, the President has the power to reduce tariff rates up to 50 per cent of the June 1934 rates. This is similar to the way in which Congress entrusts to the Interstate Commerce Commission the details of the rates to be charged by railroads. Many of our tariff rates have already been lowered as far as is possible under the imposed limits.

## Proposed Changes

The present bill now before Congress (H.R.2652) seeks to extend and expand American bargaining power by bringing this 50 per cent limit of tariff reduction up to date. That is, the bill provides that the limit be related to the rates of January 1945 instead of June 1934. The effect of this expansion of authority would be to give the United States more bargaining power through possible reductions of its tariffs, and in this way

obtain additional reductions by other countries that would permit increased export of American goods.

This bill had the support of Mr. Roosevelt, for he believed that under its provisions "a real and large and permanent expansion of international trade becomes possible and likely." In a message to Congress on March 26, the President said that this step, together with other legislation such as the Bretton Woods Agreement, the Chicago Aviation Treaty, and the proposed food and agriculture organization, was essential in creating "a kit of tools" for a new world of international cooperation and in preventing a return to economic warfare.

He declared that the policy of reducing barriers to trade is fundamental to our own full employment and improved standards of living. He said that if we fail to follow this policy "we shall see built up in all countries new vested interests in a system of restrictions, and we shall have lost our opportunity for the greater prosperity that expanding trade brings."

## The Effect of Trade Barriers

In considering our national tariff policy, parent-teacher members will want to examine the opinion of Secretary of State Stettinius as expressed in a speech made to the Council on Foreign Relations at Chicago, April 4: "The record also shows that consumers—and every American is a consumer—have to pay more for products manufactured by highly protected industries than they would if more of these products were imported. This means they have that much less money to spend for other products they would like to buy.

"Our exports are the imports of other countries just as our imports are their exports," Mr. Stettinius pointed out. "If we impose unfair tariff barriers that prevent Americans from buying from other countries products they would like to buy if they could, then we invite retaliation by these countries against our

exports of products that we would like to sell to them."

"It was this sort of competition in tariffs that strangled trade, restricted production, and stimulated economic warfare before the war. We cannot afford to let it happen again," warned our Secretary of State.

## Toward Future Economic Security

At San Francisco our representatives are meeting with the representatives of other countries to establish a system of collective security. While we are watching what happens at San Francisco, we must not forget that we need also a system of collective economic security.

*What is decided about the Trade Agreements Act and about such other important matters as the Bretton Woods Proposals will be looked upon as a sign of whether or not we are going to collaborate with the other nations of the world in solving critical economic problems.*

The parent-teacher organization will receive firsthand information about the San Francisco Conference from its National president, Mrs. William A. Hastings who is serving the U.S. State Department as consultant. The "Monthly Memo" in this issue and articles in future issues of the *National Congress Bulletin* will recount the accomplishments of the Conference as they relate to the prosperity of the world and the peace that we all desire—for ourselves, our children, and generations yet unborn.

## "Problems of the Peace"

What can the San Francisco Conference accomplish? How can the people in liberated countries attain self-government and prosperity? What shall be our treatment of defeated aggressor nations? How will tariff regulations affect the peace? What problems of reconversion have to be met by American industry?

Parent-teacher members who want to learn more about such national and international problems will be interested in a radio program called *Problems of the Peace*. Timely questions of present and postwar days are discussed by Lyman Bryson in a new series of fifteen-minute talks over the Columbia network each Sunday at 1:30 p.m., E.W.T.

In order to conserve paper, this issue of the *Bulletin* contains only four pages.

